

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/02420
 filed on July 18, 2003.

[0000.6] **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~Prior Art~~ Field of the Invention

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.5] Description of the Prior Art

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] ~~In this~~ In the fuel metering unit described above, ~~that is~~ known from DE 198 53 103 A1, the spring plate is disposed behind the valve piston in the axial direction. In the exemplary embodiment described in conjunction with Fig. 8 of DE 198 53 103 A1, the valve disc can be provided with an axial sealing seat. In the closed position of the control valve, the valve piston comes into contact with the axial sealing seat and should thus tightly close the control valve so that no fuel travels through the fuel metering unit to the high-pressure fuel pump.

Page 2, please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] ~~Advantages of the Invention~~

SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] The fuel metering unit according to the invention for a fuel injection system for internal combustion engines ~~that is described according to the preamble to the pending claim 1~~ includes the provision that the inner chamber of the valve piston is provided with a shutoff sleeve and that the valve piston and the shutoff sleeve constitute a shutoff valve.

Page 3, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0011]:

[0011.5] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] Other advantages and advantageous embodiments and modifications of the invention can be inferred from the description contained herein below, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which: ~~their description, and the claims.~~

Please delete paragraph [0013].

Please replace paragraph [0014] with the following amended paragraph:

[0014] Fig. 1 shows a vertical longitudinal section through ~~an~~ one embodiment ~~form~~ of a fuel metering unit ~~and~~ according to the invention, and

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Page5, please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] The ball retainer 54 in turn rests by means of the ~~ball 52~~ spring 27 against a bottom 28 of the valve piston 25, thus holding the valve piston 25 in contact with the front end of the armature pin 14.

Page 6, please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] As has already been mentioned above, it has in practice turned out to be useful to provide not one, but several radial control openings 32 distributed over the circumference of the valve housing 22. DE 198 53 103 A1 describes the design of the control openings 32 in detail, and this description is incorporated herein by reference. ~~Reference to this description is included herein.~~

Page 9, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0040]:

[0041] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.